

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
IO-13 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AF-10
EA-10 /091 W
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R 281615Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5342
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USIA WASHDC
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 6465

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: AO CU DA US
SUBJ: CRITICISM OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S CUBA-ANGOLA STATEMENT
INCREASES

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 6430 (B) COPENHAGEN 6431

SUMMARY. PRESS AND PARLIAMENTARY CRITICISM OF FOREIGN MINISTER
K.B.ANDERSEN'S REPORTED ENDORSEMENT OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN
ANGOLA MOUNTED SHARPLY TODAY. AT THE SAME TIME, BOTH ANDERSEN
AND PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN ARE STICKING TO THE LINE THAT
ANDERSEN TOOK IN BRAZIL. THE EMBARRASSMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
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OFFICIALS IS ACUTE. END SUMMARY

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) TODAY'S EARLY MORNING RADIO NEWS CARRIED
A TAPED INTERVIEW WITH ANDERSEN IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE
OVER THE REACTION TO HIS COMMENTS ("I ONLY SAID WHAT I'VE SAID
BEFORE.") AND REPEATED HIS BELIEF THAT ANY "GOVERNMENT" CAN
REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM WHEREVER IT CAN GET IT. ANDERSEN REPLIED

"NO COMMENT" TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THIS DOCTRINE WOULD ALSO APPLY TO THE REQUEST BY THE FORMER SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE US.

2. THIS LAST THEME HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY PROGRESSIVE PARTY PARLIAMENTARIAN JOHN ARENTOFT -- ONE OF MANY WHO ARE PRESSING FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON ANDERSEN'S REMARKS. ARENTOFT HAS CALLED ON ANDERSEN TO WITHDRAW HIS MANY PAST STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. IN ADDRESSING THE AARHUS JOURNALIST ASSOCIATION YESTERDAY EVENING, PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN BACKED ANDERSEN'S POSITION. JORGENSEN REPORTEDLY SAID, "IN PRINCIPLE IT IS UP TO AN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY TO DECIDE WHERE HELP SHOULD BE ASKED. ANGOLA REQUESTED OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE BUT NO WESTERN COUNTRY REACTED. THEREFORE WE CANNOT BLAME ANGOLA FOR GETTING HELP FROM CUBA. IT IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE AFRICANS DO WHAT THEY CAN TO AVOID TOO-CLOSE TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THIS ASPECT IS NOT CONSIDERED SO MUCH, BUT IT IS ACTUALLY VERY IMPORTANT".

4. PERHAPS THE BEST WRITTEN CRITICAL STATEMENT TODAY'S EDITORIAL IN BERLINGSKE TIDENDE:

A. "...ANDERSEN HAS PREVIOUSLY MADE STRANGE COMPARISONS BETWEEN AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN WEST GERMANY AND CUBAN SOLDIERS IN ANGOLA, AND HE HAS CRITICIZED OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR NOT HAVING CONFIDENTIAL

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HELPED THE MARXIST RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, MPLA, BEFORE AND DURING THE CIVIL WAR, AS DENMARK DID. BUT HE CHANGES THE SEQUENCE OF HISTORICAL FACTS WHEN HE CLAIMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA ASKED CUBA FOR HELP. IT WAS THE CUBAN INTERVENTION THAT CREATED THE PRESENT MPLA GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AND HAS KEPT IT IN POWER. THIS WAS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF THE EXPANSION OF THE SOVIET SPHERE OF INFLUENCE THROUGH THE HELP OF SURROGATES, AND THE ONLY THING THAT ANDERSEN MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT IS THAT THE WEST CAN BLAME ITSELF FOR ALLOWING IT TO SUCCEED.

B. "...ANDERSEN'S FEELING FOR WHAT IS TO BE SAID WHERE AND WHEN IS AS POORLY DEVELOPED AS HIS ABILITY TO REMAIN SILENT. HE THINKS QUICKLY BUT HE SPEAKS EVENMORE QUICKLY. HE THEREBY FREQUENTLY CAUSES DIFFICULTY FOR HIMSELF ... HIS COUNTRY, HIS GOVERNMENT AND HIS PRIME MINISTER. THEREFORE HE MUST BE TOLD WHAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID.

C. "ANDERSEN IS BY NOW AN EXPERIENCED FOREIGN MINISTER ... BUT HE LACKS SENSITIVITY. HIS POLEMIC TEMPER IS NO DIPLOMATIC ASSET.

D. "...PERHAPS HE WILL RECEIVE ROSES FROM FIDEL CASTRO FOR HIS STATEMENTS. HE WILL NOT WHEN HE RETURNS TO COPENHAGEN." END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH OUR DANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY COLLEAGUES, ALL OF WHOM ARE EMBARRASSED AND CHAGRINED. A NUMBER OF THEM SHARE WHAT HAS BEEN THE POSITION OF THE DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY: THAT THE MPLA WAS THE MOST VIABLE AND PROMISING OF THE VARIOUS COMPETING FACTIONS IN ANGOLA. SOME WOULD EVEN ADVANCE A RATIONALE IN DEFENSE OF CUBAN INTERVENTION. BUT, TO A MAN, NONE WOULD EXPRESS ANYTHING BUT DISMAY OVER ANDERSEN'S INCREDIBLE LACK OF SENSITIVITY IN SPEAKING AS HE DID ONLY DAYS BEFORE HE IS TO BE OFFICIALLY RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON.

6. IN FACT, ONE HIGHLY PLACED MFA OFFICIAL TOLD POLCOUNS TODAY THAT THE MINISTRY HAS BEEN SEARCHING, SO FAR IN VAIN, IN AN CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER A SIMILAR PREVIOUS PRONOUNCEMENT BY ANDERSEN WHICH WOULD COLLABORATE HIS CLAIM THAT HE HAS SAID ALL THIS BEFORE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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